

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4199

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 13106

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR TH US

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF: A) BANGKOK 13013; B) AIR FORCE II 070530Z

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SUMMARY OF SUBJECT DISCUSSIONS WHICH WAS PREPARED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. COPIES WERE PROVIDED TO EMBASSY AND VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY BUT SUMMARY WAS NOT COORDINATED WITH US SIDE. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS NOT A JOINT PRODUCT BUT THAI SIDE'S SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION. REF B SUGGESTS CORRECTIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THAI SUMMARY, AND WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MFA.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. GENERAL

1.1 THE VICE PRESIDENT DELIVERED A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER GENERAL KRIANGSAK, INVITING HIM TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN EARLY 1979. THE INVITATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE.
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2. SECURITY COOPERATION

2.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE;
--REQUESTED: INCREASE OF FMS CREDITS EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF PAYMENT; SHORTER TIME FOR DELIVERY OF WEAPONS;
TRANSFER OF ICS TO THAILAND (THE RENT EXPIRES IN THREE YEARS);

RECONSIDERATION OF THE MILITARY GRANT PROGRAM;

--POINTED OUT THAT SOME US WEAPONS ARE OBSOLETE AS WELL AS EXPENSIVE.

2.2 THE US SIDE:

--WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THAI REQUESTS;
--OFFERED TO SELL TO THAILAND 18 F-5E'S;
--CONGRESS HAS TERMINATED GRANT AID; FY1978 IS THE LAST;
--WILL STUDY THE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING THE FMS, BUT IS NOT OPTIMISTIC;
--EMBASSY WILL WORK WITH THAI OFFICIALS ON THE ICS.

3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

3.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE;
--URGED THE US TO FACILITATE THAI EXPORTS INTO THE US MARKET TO HELP ALLEVIATE THAILAND'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH THE US;
--EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT A BILL PENDING IN CONGRESS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE 50,000 TONS OF TIN FROM THE US STRATEGIC STOCKPILE.

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3.2 THE US SIDE:

--ON ASSISTANCE: CONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS. HOWEVER, THE US WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL BUDGET, AND WILL GIVE PRIORITY IN THE CONSIDERATION;

--ON TRADE PROBLEMS: THE ADMINISTRATION IS FIGHTING PROTECTIONIST TRENDS IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WAS FELT THAT THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL COULD ALSO ADDRESS TO THESE QUESTIONS;

--ON THE BILL ON TIN: THE US HAS NO INTENTION TO DISRUPT THE THAI ECONOMY, AND AT PRESENT IS NOT CERTAIN WHICH BILL WILL BE PASSED (AS THERE ARE SEVERAL BILLS BEING CONSIDERED).

4. PROBLEMS OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES

4.1 THE THAI SIDE

--EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US COOPERATION;
--POINTED OUT THE NUMBER AND ITS TREND;

--REITERATED THAI POSITION (3 POINTS);
--SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES PERSUADE THE
INDOCHINA COUNTRIES TO GUARANTEE SAFETY FOR THE REFUGEES
WISHING TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES, AND THAT THIRD AND
ESPECIALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES
FOR RE-SETTLEMENT;
--REASSURED THAT ONLY VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WILL BE MADE.

4.2 THE US SIDE:

--APPRECIATES THAI EFFORTS AND SHARES THAI CONCERN ABOUT
INCREASING NUMBER OF REFUGEES;
--PREPARED TO ACCEPT, ON A PAROLE BASIS, 25,000 EACH YEAR OVER
THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, 20,000 OF WHICH WOULD BE FROM THAILAND;
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--OFFERED TO PROVIDE \$US 2,000,000 FOR STUDYING OF LONG-
TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM;
--EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FORCEFUL REPATRIATION WILL
NOT BE NECESSARY;
--WILL PRESS OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ASSUME MORE
RESPONSIBILITIES;
--WILL WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TOWARD THE BETTER FUNDING
OF UNHCR.

5. PROBLEMS OF NARCOTICS

5.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US COOPERATION;
--REITERATED THAI POSITION AND DETERMINATION TO
SUPPRESS THE NARCOTIC TRADE AND TRAFFICKING WITHIN
THAILAND;
--INDICATED THE ROLE WHICH THE US COULD PLAY IN CROP
SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AND IN LAW ENFORCEMENT;
--REQUESTED FOR MORE HELICOPTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING
LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

5.2 THE US SIDE:

--ENCOURAGED BY THAI EFFORTS;
--WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE, STAND READY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
IN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM, AND STUDY REQUEST FOR MORE
EQUIPMENTS.

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ACTION EA-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 13106

LIMDIS

II. REGIONAL MATTERS

1. US ROLE IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

1.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--POINTED OUT THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THAILAND
TO THIS REGION AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US;

-- ASKED FOR CLAIRIFCATION OF THE US COMMITMENTS
TO THE MANILA PACT AND THE RUSK-THANAT JOINT-
COMMUNIQUE OF 1962.

1.2 THE US SIDE:

--REAFFIRMED CONTINUED INTEREST IN THIS REGION;

--INTENDS TO REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER;

--INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE THAT CAN
BE RELIED UPON;

--COMMITTS TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER TREATIES
WITH COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO
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IN THE FUTURE;

--HAS BEEN PRESSING JAPAN TO BECOME MORE DEEPLY
INVOLVED IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS;

--WILL TRY TO ACT PRUDENTLY IN KOREA WITH EVERY INTENTION TO MAKE SOUTH KOREA STRONGER MILITARILY WHILE THE US WITHDRAWS ITS GROUND FORCES;

--WILL MAKE NO MILITARY SALE TO CHINA;

--WILL CAREFULLY CONTROL THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE USSR.

2. THAI-CHINESE RELATIONS

2.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--GAVE BRIEFINGS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

2.2 THE US SIDE:

--APPRECIATES THAI EFFORTS, FEELS THAT THAILAND IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION;

--FAVORS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA, BUT DOES NOT SEE IT COMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE;

--BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO CHINA IS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE WORLD SITUATION, THIS REGION, AND ON THE US-CHINESE RELATIONS.

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3. THAI-INDOCHINESE RELATIONS

3.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--GAVE BRIEFINGS ON THE LATEST STATUS OF THAILAND'S RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES.

3.2 THE US SIDE:

--INFORMED THAT ON VIET-NAM, THE US IS PREPARED TO FORGET THE PAST, BUT EFFORTS AIMED AT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS HAVE THUS FAR MADE NO PROGRESS BECAUSE OF THE QUESTION OF AID;

--ON LAOS, AT PRESENT RELATIONS ARE NORMAL;

--ON KAMPUCHEA, NO POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNICATION IS ANTICIPATED. PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA.

4. US ASEAN DIALOGUE

4.1 THE THAI SIDE:

--INFORMED THAT ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING TT BE
HELD IN JUNE WILL DECIDE ON THE LEVEL AND DATE OF THE
NEXT DIALOGUE;

--SAID IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE FIVE ASEAN FOREIGN
MINISTERS TO BE IN THE US AT THE SAME TIME;

--SUGGESTED THAT THE DIALOGUE, IF HELD AT THE
MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SHOULD BE HELD DURING THE UNGA SESSIONS
I.E., IN SEPTEMBER).

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4.2 THE US SIDE:

--INSISTED THAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE WORTH
THE DIFFICULTY;

--WILL CONSIDER HOLDING SUCH MEETING DURING THE
UNGA SESSIONS, THOUGH POINTING OUT THAT IF HELD IN
AUGUST THE IMPACT WOULD BE STRONGER AND WOULD NOT BE IN
CONFLICT WITH THE FORTHCOMING US ELECTIONS.

END TEXT.
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